

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 02486 281042Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 280954Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7058

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2486

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MY, CH

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PRC

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 2350

1. SUMMARY: REACTION IN MALAYSIA TO MAY 21 GOM ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD VISIT CHINA TO FORMALIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. MAIN THEMES IN CHORUS OF PRAISE FOR OPENING RELATIONS HAVE BEEN: IT IS BOOST FOR GOM FOREIGN POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT; IT WILL UNDERCUT COMMUNIST TERRORISTS (CT); AND MALAYSIA-CHINA TRADE WILL INCREASE MARKEDLY. HOWEVER, CONSERVATIVE MALAYSIAN CHINESE POLITICAL LEADERS CAUTIONED MALAYSIAN CHINESE NOT TO OVERREACT AND THUS EXACERBATE COMMUNAL TENSION, AND LEFT-WING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 KUALA 02486 281042Z

LEADERS POINTED OUT THAT RECOGNITION IS NOT GOING TO SOLVE COM-

MUNAL PROBLEMS. NO UNEXPECTEDLY, NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE PUBLICALLY REGRETTED BREAKING OF LAST TIES WITH REPUBLIC OF CHINA (ROC) ON TAIWAN (GOM HAS RECOGNIZED PRC AS ONLY GOVT OF CHINA SINCE 1971) END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE MAY 21 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRIME MINISTER RAZAK WOULD LEAD PARTY TO CHINA MAY 28 TO FORMALIZE LONG EXPECTED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN GOM AND PRC THERE HAS BEEN UNANIMOUS PRAISE FOR THE MOVE IN MALAYSIAN MEDIA. GOM HAS BEEN LAUDED FOR EXERTING ITS LEADERSHIP WITHIN ASEAN, AND FOR QUOTE DRAWING PEKING INTO A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE END QUOTE THAT WILL ADVANCE SOUTHEAST ASIA NEUTRALITY ZONE. POSITIVE COMMENTS FROM BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SOURCES IN ASEAN NATIONS HAVE BEEN WIDELY QUOTED TO DEMONSTRATE ASEAN SUPPORT FOR GOM MOVE. MALAYSIAN COMMENT HAS ALSO REFLECTED THE GOM-ENCOURAGED BELIEF THAT RECOGNITION WILL UNDERCUT THE CT AND SOME GOM OFFICIALS AS WELL AS PRESS HAVE STATED THAT PRC IS NOT AIDING THE CT'S FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVT-INFLUENCED KL "STRAITS TIMES" EDITORIALIZED QUOTE THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PEKING WILL AID MATERIALLY THE TERRORISTS IN THE JUNGLE ONCE DIPLOMATIC TIES ARE ESTABLISHED WHEN THEY CHOSE NOT TO DO SO BEFORE THE DIPLOMATIC HAND OF FRIENDSHIP WAS EXTENDED END QUOTE. "STRAITS TIMES" OF MAY 28 QUOTES "BARRON'S MAGAZINE" TO EFFECT THAT PRC HAS AGREED TO STOP SUPPORTING CT'S. CLANDESTINE VOICE OF THE MALAYAN REVOLUTION, ON OTHER HAND, MAKES POINT THAT WHILE CHINA COEXISTS WITH NATIONS WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS, IT CONTINUES TO RESOLUTELY SUPPORT THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE OF ALL OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THAT THE TASK OF THE MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY IS TO CONTINUE REVOLUTION.

3. IN POLITICAL CIRCLES, THE RULING NATIONAL FRONT COALITION HAS HAILED THE MOVE AS A QUOTE PERSONAL POLITICAL TRIUMPH FOR TUN RAZAK. END QUOTE. OPPOSITION HAS FOR THE MOST PART CHIMED IN WITH CLAIM THEY PROPOSED IT FIRST, AND IT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT COMPLETELY AND WITH DISPATCH, IMPLYING GOM IS DRAGGING ITS FEET. THE HISTORICALLY SINGAPORE-INFLUENCED AND SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY (DAP) HAS POINTED OUT THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN GOM AND PRC WILL NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS OF CHINESE IN MALAYSIA. THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE MALAYSIAN CHINESE ASSOCIATION, A PARTY WITH HISTORICALLY STRONG TIES TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUALA 02486 281042Z

KUOMINTANG, MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY DATUK LEE SAN CHOON, WELCOMED THE MOVE, BUT EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR COOLNESS (SIC) ON PART OF MALAYSIAN CHINESE. OTHER CHINESE POLITICIANS PRIVATELY HAVE

SPOKEN OF FEAR THAT OVERREACTION BY MALAYSIAN CHINESE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC MISSION COULD EXACERBATE COMMUNAL TENSIONS HERE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ANY STATEMENTS BY OLDER POLITICIANS WITH STRONG PERSONAL TIES TO THE KUOMINTANG.

4. BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS HAILED MOVE AS BOOST FOR CHINA-MALAYSIA TRADE.

5. GOM PLACES HIGH PREMIUM ON ITS REGIONAL RELATIONS ESPECIALLY WITH THE OTHER ASEAN NATIONS, AND IT HAS TAKEN CARE TO KEEP THEM FULLY BRIEFED AS TO ITS INTENTIONS VIS A VIS CHINA. MALAYSIA IS ENJOYING ITS SELF-IMAGE AS FOREIGN POLICY LEADER IN ASEAN. THE SILENCE ON THE PART OF MALAYSIAN POLITICIANS SYMPATHETIC TO ROC ILLUSTRATES THAT TAIPEI NO LONGER REPRESENTS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PEKING IN THE MINDS OF MOST OVERSEAS CHINESE HERE.
UNDERHILL

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